

September 24, 2003

RE: RM-10787

Dear Commissioners,

In recent years, the FCC changed the requirement concerning the morse code. We have seen the effects of the change which lowered the code speed to 5 words per minute. During the comment period for restructuring in 1999, many of the comments claimed that the Amateur Radio Service would suffer greatly. Fortunately, the naysayers were incorrect. We experienced growth in both the Extra and General Classes, which came mostly from the current Amateur population. This change was a productive and welcomed result.

The elimination of Element I would only help the current Technician and help promote more activity on the HF bands. It would provide a needed incentive to upgrade to General Class for the Technician Class.

In the past several years, the FCC has assigned specific frequencies for emergency communications within the Amateur band. All of the frequencies are in the phone sub-bands and protected from interference. One could guess that these frequencies would make more Amateurs operators available to participate in emergency communications. In true emergencies, phone is still the most desired mode. Phone allows more operators to participate on the same level.

A disaster, in which only CW would get through when phone won't, is only for the imagination. If that situation had any merit, then every two-way radio service would require CW proficiency.

On September 6, 2003, the International Amateur Radio Union issued a statement in support of the removal of the morse requirement from licensing. This should be considered as a sign of the change in the international view of the code requirement.

The change asked in RM-10787 is needed. Please approve the requested change.

Regards,

Melvin Lehmann
4002 N. 58th Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85031